



MARCH 2016 HIT STUDENTS SHINE AT E-TECH AFRICA EXPO AND CONFERENCE ...RECEIVE ENDORSEMENT FROM ICT MINISTER



HIT students exhibiting their innovations (left) and Hon. Supa Mandiwanzira, Minister of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services at the e-Tech Africa Expo & Conference in Harare.

The Harare Institute of Technology students stole the limelight at the e-Tech Africa Conference held from 9-11 March 2016, where they showcased their e-tech applications and solutions; receiving special endorsement from the Minister of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services, Honourable Supa Mandiwanzira.

Minister Mandiwanzira said HIT continues to inspire the Zimbabwean technology industry through its mentoring of young technopreneurs, adding that the Institute has fast become Zimbabwe's technology hub producing the best technology engineers across various disciplines. "We appreciate the good work and devotion shown by the Institute in producing students who are developing business solutions that suit the local markets. We want to go into universities like HIT, where young students are demonstrating products which can go onto the market today, - and support them to develop more of these technologies and applications that will help our economy and ICT industry to grow", he said.

HIT's top students from the Schools of Information Science and Technology and Business and Management Science exhibited at the e-Tech Africa Conference 2016 hosted by the Ministry of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services at the Harare International Conference Centre.

Among the HIT students exhibiting at the event were Kudzai Chasinda from Software Engineering, Tapiwanashe Matangira, Blessing Sibanda, and Tatenda Vhovha from the Computer Science department. Their exhibitions wowed a lot of visitors and delegates at the conference.

Kudzai Chasinda developed a music platform called Chase Music Player. The music application is downloadable on Google Play for free, and is designed to offer free music to android devices running on Android 4.0 or higher. The application is user friendly and can be used by all age groups and is uniquely crafted to enhance playlists.

Tapiwanashe Matangira developed a computer-programming solution coded in Shona called the Graphical Code Explorer. The programme is designed to incorporate the Graphical Programming Interface (GPI) where programmers do not need to type words when programming. The GPI is annotated in Shona, which it runs as the coding language; - a first in the history of programming. The GPI also has the ability

to visualise code execution, making it easier for programmers to layout their programming paths without too many complexities.

Blessing Sibanda and Tatenda Vhovha co-developed an educational system for children between the ages of 6-10 for all Windows users. The educational system has four demo games designed to enrich the minds of youngsters when mastering different subject concepts. Another exciting feature of their application is the addition of Mathematics involving addition, subtraction, division, and multiplication problems. The software also has biology and science concepts incorporating a visual learning setup with human structures that can be learned in Shona with a timed educational game based on high scoring system.

Blessing and Tatenda said their motivation comes from the fact that the gaming industry is dominated by mostly violent games like wars, extreme racing and personal fights with no provision of educational content to young scholars. "We then decided to come up with the idea of developing educational games that will instill the right scholastic thoughts in children as they grow, especially those involving science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

Other projects exhibited were Democratic Voice an E-Governance application developed by Walter Somera, a Computer Science student and Mdabuko Magadlela, a Software Engineering student. LifeGuard, a health assistant application developed by Mazvita Chigariro from the E-Commerce Department to promote health awareness and FacePass, a security surveillance desktop application that runs in cohesion with surveillance cameras developed by Amos Suwali and Jeremia Mabodo from the Computer Science Department.

Mr Innocent Mapanga, Chairperson of HIT's Computer Science Department said his department is working towards nurturing young software and applications developers. "The entire School of Information Science & Technology also coordinates mentorship programmes to ensure our students' different business ideas are continuously reviewed so that they go into the market as bankable business solutions," he said.

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INNOVATION

LEADERSHIP

INTEGRITY

COMMITMENT

PROFESSIONALISM

HIT TECHNOLOGY CENTRE INSTALLS SOLAR DRIERS IN MUTOKO



HIT Technology Centre technicians installing Solar Driers in Mutoko, while local women are trained food drying and preservation skills.

The Technology Centre recently installed two solar driers at Loti and Rukovo business centres in Mutoko district.

Speaking at the installation ceremony, Mrs Katsiga, the women's project coordinator expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for helping them to procure the Solar Driers from the Harare Institute of Technology. "We were used to drying our vegetables in the open, but today we have been given these Solar Driers which will improve the quality of our dried products and our businesses", she said.

A representative from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development, said her ministry has a mandate to empower women, especially those in rural communities such as Mutoko, where a lot of women are

engaged in horticultural and fruit production. "We want to make sure that there is food for the whole family and we also intend to improve the food and nutrition status of the whole community. Therefore, we saw it fit to empower these women with food preservation skills and (the attendant) technology to make sure that their families are healthy and to also help them in their income generating projects. This is in line with the ZIMASSET Agenda on women empowerment and value addition", she said.

Mr Nyanhanga, a local community leader in Mutoko said the installation of the Solar Driers is a progressive initiative as a lot of vegetable growers were losing a lot of their produce before it reached the market; given the perishable nature of most fruits and vegetables.

Ms. Nancy Denhere, a food technologist from HIT's Food Processing Technology Department, educated the women on food preservation skills

while the Acting Director of HIT's Technology Centre Eng. N. Chirinda and his team of technicians trained them on how to operate and maintain the Solar Driers.

The Technology Centre's Forced Natural Convection (FNC) solar driers are cabinets where foodstuff is placed inside by spreading it on layered trays. The average temperature inside the cabinet when the door is closed is raised by means of a Solar Collector (SC) to reduce water content in the foodstuff through heat exchange and dehydration. Chimneys are also installed at the top of the cabinet to control and extract relative humidity; thereby accelerating drying time.

The solar driers are manufactured by the production unit of the Technology Centre, and are part of a larger, concerted effort to enhance commercialisation; a key mandate of the Harare Institute of Technology.

BASIC COMMUNICATION AND SYSTEMIC PEER COUNSELING SKILLS FOR STUDENTS LEADERS.....

HIT student leaders recently attended a training programme on Basic Communication and Systemic Peer Counseling held at the Monomotapa Crown Plaza Hotel from 29 March to 2 April 2016.

Mr Rutizirira, HIT Finance Director officially opened the workshop which covered topics such as Gender Based Violence, HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, self awareness and counselling skills and techniques. The programme was facilitated by the Zimbabwe Institute of Systemic Therapy (CONNECT).

Mr Rutizirira urged the participants to go out and assist and guide their peers using the learning experience and critical knowledge that they have acquired. "Understand and read around the major issues that are causing havoc among the youth and you will be able to assist your peers successfully," he advised.



Mr Rutizirira, HIT Finance Director



MILITARY HAILS HIT MANDATE



Chief Instructors of the Joint Command and Staff Course Number 29, led by Wing Commander E. Khupe -Chief Instructor Air Power, (seated on the right) and participants (right) during a tour of the campus' departments, laboratories, workshops and Centres of Excellence.

The military has endorsed the Harare Institute of Technology as an institution that plays a pivotal role in national development.

Speaking during a study visit at HIT by the Zimbabwe Staff College Joint Command and Staff Course Number 29, Wing Commander E. Khupe (Chief Instructor Air Power) said the Institute is making tremendous strides in technology development, which is very vital for national security.

“This visit is part of our mode of instruction on technology. We visit institutions that are dealing with technology, and we expect our students to learn as much as possible in as far as technology

and national development are concerned. We are here to learn about your programmes and activities and how they relate to national security,” said Wing Commander Khupe.

Participants and instructors of the Joint Command and Staff Course Number 29 were also shown some of the various Capstone Design Projects by HIT students and graduates during a tour of the campus' departments, laboratories, workshops and Centres of Excellence. Prior to the tour, the delegation were given an overview of the Institute's establishment, structural functions, mandate and overall contribution to the nation by Dr. T. Padenga (Dean -School of Information Sciences

and Technology), Mr P. Muredzi (Dean - School of Industrial Sciences and Technology), and Mr W. Gwarimbo (Dean -School of Business and Management Sciences).

Over 50 officers drawn from the Zimbabwe National Army, Airforce of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe Republic Police, Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services, Office of the President and Cabinet, Nigeria and SADC countries comprising Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania, Swaziland, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia are attending the Joint Command and Staff Course Number 29 run by the Zimbabwe Defence Forces Staff College in Harare.



HIT TO CO-HOST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR PHARMACY STUDENTS

The Zimbabwe Pharmaceutical Students' Association, (ZPSA) will jointly host the 62nd International Pharmacy Students Federation (IPSF) World Congress in Zimbabwe at the University of Zimbabwe and the Harare Institute of Technology.

The Congress is preceded by the Leaders in Training programme which aims to groom and develop leaders within the student members which commences from 26-29 July at the HIT campus in Belvedere.

The main congress begins 29 July to 8 August, and will be held under the theme, "Navigating through a changing healthcare landscape: Quest for pharmaceutical excellence". Several speakers are lined up for the event, which will also include professional development activities such as the Clinical Skills Event and the Patient Counselling Event. The final part of the programme is a five-day Post Congress Tour which will provide an opportunity to the guests from different parts of the world to explore the beauty of Zimbabwe and its natural wonders.

The Zimbabwe Pharmaceutical Students' Association (ZPSA) is an a-political and non-religious body which represents Zimbabwe's pharmacy students at UZ and HIT. ZPSA is affiliated with the Pharmaceutical Society of

Zimbabwe which acts as its mother body. ZPSA is a full member of the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF), an association which represents around 350 000 pharmacy students and recent graduates in 70 countries worldwide. IPSF is a non-governmental, non-political, and non-religious organisation and is the leading international advocacy organization of pharmacy students which promotes improved public health through provision of information, education, networking, and a range of publication and professional activities.

The IPSF World Congress 2016 is a once in a lifetime opportunity for local and international students and provides the platform to interact, participate in cultural exchange and connect as the world comes to Zimbabwe.



KADOMA CAREER FAIR



High school students from Mashonaland West Province visit the HIT stand at a Career Fair held at the Kadoma Hotel and Conference Centre on 11 March 2016.